

First and most important is the granting of Trade Promotion Authority to the President. Every day that goes by without this authority is another day of wasted opportunity. We cannot afford for America to stand idle while other nations negotiate trade agreements that give an advantage to the competitors of American goods and services. Congress needs to get this done, and get it done quickly.

We have many other challenges that lie ahead. We need to move the Jordan and Vietnam Trade Agreements through Congress.

We also should look to our own hemisphere. Canada and Mexico are our largest trading partners. American exports to Western Hemisphere nations comprised more than one-third of all U.S. exports in 2000. We must strengthen our ties to our Western Hemisphere neighbors.

This is good for all peoples in this hemisphere. We need to move on renewing the Andean Trade Preference Act this year. And we should pursue a trade agreement with Chile, and a free trade agreement for all the Americas.

We will face another hurdle in again granting normal trade relations to China. Establishing a stable trade relationship with China is in our best interest.

Turning our backs on China will not improve human rights in China, promote greater freedom, or improve the stability in Asia—rather, it would have a dangerous and negative impact on all these important efforts.

This year we must help lead efforts to launch another round of World Trade Organization negotiations.

The challenges are many, and they are great, but so are the opportunities. President Bush has laid out a strong, forward-looking agenda on trade. He has an excellent team in Ambassador Zoellick, Secretary Evans, and those charged with moving this agenda forward.

I look forward to working with the President and his team on America's trade agenda. It is fundamental to our future.

Trade and investment are building blocks for the world's mutual interests. We have the opportunity to make the world more stable, more secure, more prosperous, and more democratic. Let's not squander this very historic and unique opportunity.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. NELSON of Florida). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the hour of 2 having arrived, are we now back on the education bill?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We will be momentarily.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, morning business is now closed.

BETTER EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1) to extend programs and activities under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

Pending:

Jeffords amendment No. 358, in the nature of a substitute.

Kennedy (for Murray) amendment No. 378 (to amendment No. 358), to provide for class size reduction programs.

Kennedy (for Dodd) amendment No. 382 (to amendment No. 358), to remove the 21st century community learning center program from the list of programs covered by performance agreements.

Cleland amendment No. 376 (to amendment No. 358), to provide for school safety enhancement, including the establishment of the National Center for School and Youth Safety.

Biden amendment No. 386 (to amendment No. 358), to establish school-based partnerships between local law enforcement agencies and local school systems, by providing school resource officers who operate in and around elementary and secondary schools.

Specter modified amendment No. 388 (to amendment No. 378), to provide for class size reduction.

Voinovich amendment No. 389 (to amendment No. 358), to modify provisions relating to State applications and plans and school improvement to provide for the input of the Governor of the State involved.

Carnahan amendment No. 374 (to amendment No. 358), to improve the quality of education in our Nation's classrooms.

Reed amendment No. 425 (to amendment No. 358), to revise provisions regarding the Reading First Program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Nevada is recognized to call up his amendment No. 460.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time not run on this amendment. I will wait until the manager of the bill arrives. I ask unanimous consent that that be part of the order, and pending that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 460 TO AMENDMENT NO. 358

Mr. REID. Mr. President, pursuant to order, I send an amendment to the desk. It is at the desk. I ask the amendment be read at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:
The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) proposes an amendment numbered 460.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide assistance to entities that emphasize language and life skills programs for limited English proficient students)

On page 254, line 21, insert before the period the following: "(including organizations and entities that carry out projects described in section 1609(d))".

On page 257, between lines 18 and 19, insert the following:

"(d) AFTER SCHOOL SERVICES.—Grant funds awarded under this part may be used by organizations or entities to implement programs to provide after school services for limited English proficient students that emphasize language and life skills.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in the State of Nevada in Las Vegas, there is a very innovative teacher. Her name is Priscilla Rocha. She is a wonderful woman who has been a friend of mine for many years. She is also a member of the State board of education. She teaches the fourth grade, and she has had almost 20 years of experience. She has taught in Texas. As I indicated, she now teaches in Las Vegas.

About 3 years ago, she started an afterschool program in her classroom in response to the many struggles she saw with children who had limited English proficiency. She observed that the parents were not equipped with English skills or the academic background to help these children with their homework. Children were going home in some instances with no supervision because both parents worked. She found that these children kept falling further and further behind in their academic work, and she recognized that it was only a matter of time until the children dropped out of school.

What she calls her homework center operates as follows: Children in grades 1–5 are referred to the program by teachers and school counselors. Parents are first notified, and they have to sign a consent that the children can enter into this afterschool homework program. She has found it easy to get college students to help by tutoring the children on a one-to-one basis. She has also found that some children need to stay in the program only for a matter of weeks. Others need to spend a matter of years in the program.

Currently, the Las Vegas program is funded through a HUD community block grant from Clark County and the city of Las Vegas. This is held in a school classroom, but direct funding does not come from the school district. The funding goes to a community-based organization that Ms. Rocha helped found in 1992 called Hispanic Association for Bilingual Literacy in Education, or HABLE. Ms. Rocha is the Executive Director of HABLE. This program has been a remarkable success. Starting with six students in 1993,